

area as well. It is very important to have that type of dynamic within the intelligence community, to think out of the box, to think creatively and innovatively and not just be confined to the assumptions that have been carried over, to preconceived notions that were so inherent in all of the pre-war assessments with respect to Iraq's WMD program.

This bill also mandates that the national intelligence council produce national intelligence estimates. I believe this process must be made a little more automatic and transparent and a little ad hoc. I believe that the national intelligence council should report to us what they can do to streamline that process.

I also believe we should have the National Counterterrorism Center report to us in a year about what they are doing and whether they are meeting the mark. This bill already requires a report from the national director of intelligence. But I think it would also be important to hear from the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center the lessons learned in the establishment of capability before we move to set up other centers. The creation of a national intelligence director and improving the community's accountability through the creation of an inspector general are but two of the many issues in the ongoing debate on intelligence community reform. Indeed, it has been an extremely challenging year for the intelligence community and those who work in it, one in which we saw every aspect of the intelligence process come to the fore at one time or another.

From the tactical collection and analysis of on-the-ground intelligence by our battlefield commanders in Iraq that led to the capture of Saddam Hussein, to the global search for the information that led to the exposure of Aq Khan's nuclear proliferation network, to the decision to commit troops to the field in Iraq, it became obvious to every American that timely and qual-

ity intelligence is imperative if we are to be successful in defeating the forces that have pledged themselves to the destruction of America.

I think all of these events highlight how abundantly crucial it is to ensure that we have the leadership with the requisite authority to ensure that the collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence information is as synchronized, accurate, and as comprehensive as it possibly can be, and that it represents the very best judgment of the intelligence community when it is provided to the national policymakers who rely on that information to make the most profound of decisions.

Of course, intelligence reform must include reforming oversight of not only the intelligence community. Ideally, this should have occurred in tandem. Congress must not abrogate its responsibility to seriously tackle the oversight issue. As 9/11 Commissioner Lehman said, it is like one hand clapping, if you only do the executive branch this year. Hopefully we will be able to pursue those initiatives shortly as well.

In the final analysis, it is apparent to me that the intelligence structure put in place over 50 years ago was one that focused primarily on developing intelligence to counter a military threat that is no longer sufficient for confronting the asymmetrical threats we are now confronting in the 21st century—a century in which our enemies no longer make distinctions between our battlefields and our backyards.

So, therefore, we must develop a lighter and more agile intelligence capability that can keep pace with the kind of enemy we are now fighting—one that is elusive, one that does not need a large land-based military capability to bring the fight to us.

This legislation will bring America the agility we require, the ability to reform our intelligence apparatus into an adaptable organization prepared to anticipate and prepare for future threats.

I look forward to working with my colleague again, the Senator from Maine, who I congratulate again for bringing this most timely, this most forthright, comprehensive, very sound framework for intelligence reform and working with them on the issues I might propose with my refinements and enhancements to the underlying bill.

I hope in due course of this week or the following week, however long it takes before we adjourn, to complete this process, to pass this legislation, not only in the Senate but the overall Congress, so the President can sign this legislation because clearly it must be done forthwith. This is something the American people and the future of this Nation deserve.

I yield the floor.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I congratulate the senior Senator from Maine for her comments and her work on this issue. As a member of the Intelligence Committee she has understood very early the need for significant intelligence reform. The provisions included in the Collins-Lieberman bill that created an inspector general for the new national intelligence authority are the direct result of the legislation sponsored by the senior Senator from Maine.

I thank the Senator for her expertise and her leadership. This is an area, as she indicated, on which she has been working for many years. We very much value her contributions to the debate.

I know of no other requests to speak tonight.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate now stands in adjournment until 9:45 a.m., Tuesday, September 28, 2004.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:32 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 28, 2004, at 9:45 a.m.